

Abstract of the Disclosure

A component is attached to filtration material by providing the component with a deformable extension member that is preferably integral with the component and that extends from a base portion of the component. The extension member is inserted through an opening provided through the filtration material and is then deformed [back toward the base portion so as to engage the filtration material on the other side of the filtration material than the side contacted by the base portion. The deformed extension member and the base portion thus] to provide a mechanical clamp that is utilized in attaching the component in position. In certain embodiments, the component is an attachment such as an exhalation valve of a respiratory mask.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a component 100 in accordance with the disclosure. The component 100 includes a base portion 110 and an extension member 120. The extension member 120 is integral with the base portion 110 and extends from the base portion 110. The extension member 120 is deformable and is configured to be inserted through an opening in a filtration material and deformed to engage the filtration material on the other side of the filtration material than the side contacted by the base portion 110. The component 100 is shown in a perspective view, but it is understood that the component 100 may be shown in other views, such as a top view, a side view, and a cross-sectional view.